

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-07 AID-05
CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 OES-06
STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 FEA-01 /100 W
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O 240930Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6382

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 4149

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE MEDIA REACTION TO NUCLEAR ENERGY
ASPECTS OF CARTER/FUKUDA SUMMIT TALKS

REF: TOKYO 4076

1. REFTEL GIVES GENERAL JAPANESE REACTION TO SUMMIT TALKS. THIS MESSAGE IS LIMITED TO SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY DISCUSSIONS.
2. ESSENTIALLY ALL JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS HAVE PUBLISHED SEPARATE ARTICLES CONCERNING NUCLEAR-ENERGY ISSUE. TONE RANGES FROM EXTREMES OF OPTIMISM TO PESSIMISM. ALTHOUGH REPORTING FACTUALLY ON STATEMENT IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE, THEY VARY WIDELY IN INTERPRETATION OF IMPORT, AND QUOTE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY SOURCES IN PROVIDING BACKGROUND ON WHAT ACTUALLY TRANSPIRED IN TALKS.
3. YOMIURI, IN FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE BY ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OIKAWA, SAYS THAT PRESIDENT TOLD PM FUKUDA WH U.S. INTENDS TO CONCLUDE UA NEW INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO REPLACE NPT, BASED ON CONVERSATION WITH
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FONMIN HATOYAMA, AND THAT NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE OFFERED BY U.S. AT ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN MAY. IN ANOTHER FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE BY ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT DOI, PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS BY PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER WERE SAID TO INCLUDE REMARKS BY PRESIDENT AS FOLLOWS:

--REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL IS UNNECESSARY AND

UNECONOMICAL.

-- REPORT ON NUCLEAR POWER BY 21 U.S. SCIENTISTS
ALSO OPPOSES REPROCESSING.
-- U.S. WOULD APPLY NEW NUCLEAR POLICY O ITSELF
BEFORE SEEKING ITS ADOPTION BY OTHER NATIONS.
--U.S. WOULD MEET IYS OBLIATIONS TO SUPPLY
ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL.
-- HE TRUSTS JAPAN AND WANTS TO COOPERATE SO THAT
FINAL DECISION WOULD NOT TROUBLE EITHER NATION.

FUKUDA IN TURN WAS SAID TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- JAPAN, AS ONLY A-BOMBED NATION, IS MORE SENSITIVE
TO NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION THAN IS U.S.
--NPT GUARANTEES PROMOTION OF PEACEFUL USES OF
NUCLEAR ENERGY
--JAPANESE REPROCESSING PLANT IS READY TO START
OPERATIONS IN JUNE OR JULY.
--REPROCESSING IS VITAL ISSUE INFLUENCING FUTURE
OF JAPANESE ECONOMY.
--HE QUESTIONED IF NEW U.S. POLICY DISCRIMINATES
BETWEEN NUCLEAR-WEAPONS STATES AND NON-NUCLEQR-
WEAPONS STATES, AND ASKED HOW U.S. WOULD DEAL
WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

4. MAINICHI, IN SEPARATE FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE CARRIED
ON AFP NEWS SERVICE, STATES THAT TWO SIDES WERE UNABLE
TO AGREE ON NON-PROLIFERATION PROBLEM, DESPITE CORDIAL
ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS. IT ALSO SAYS THAT PRESIDENT
OPPOSES RECYCLING OF "WASTES", AND CONCLUDES THAT
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START-UP OF JAPANESE REPROCESSING PLANT WILL HAVE TO BE
DELAYED, IN REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO CHIEF CABINET
SECRETARY SONODA. ALSO MENTIONED WAS FUKUDA REQUEST
FOR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS (TO BE HELD
BEFORE APRIL 20 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW U.S. POLICY), AND
RAISING OF QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO ABOUT REPROCESSING
PLANTS IN COMMUNIST NATIONS.

5. ASAHI SAYS EDITORIALY THAT PRESIDENT'S AGREEMENT
TO "GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO JAPAN'S POSITION
REGARDING ITS ENERGY NEEDS" (IN CONNECTION WITH FORMULATION
OF NEW U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY) CAN BE REGARDED AS A "CLUE"
TO FURYV BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON REPROCESSING, ALTHOUGH
IT IS TOO MUCH TO SAY THAT "A STRONG BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS
HAS BEEN CREATED," AS STATED BY FUKUDA. IN ANOTHER
INTERESTING ANALYTICAL ARTICLE, UNIVERSITYOF TOKYO
PROFESSOR SAKAMOTO NOTES WH JAPANESE LACK A
MULTILATERAL AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE IN DEALING WITH
FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES SUCH AS NUCLEAR ENERGY; THEY FAIL

TO UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH BASIC QUESTIONS REQUIRE
MULTILATERAL RESOLUTION AND THIS LEADS TO THEIR BEING
SO DEFENSIVE ON NUCLEAR ISSUE.

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

6. NIHON KEIZAI REPRTERS, IN A ROUND-TABLE ARTICLE,
AGREE THAT U.S. POSITION ON NUCLEAR ISSUE IS VERY
STRONG, AND THEREFOOE LITTLE CAN BE EXPECTED FROM
FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. PRESIDENT'S POLITCIES ON
NON-PROLIFERATION ARE ATTRIBUTED TO HIS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.
IN EDITORIAL ON NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING, NIHON KEIZAI
STATES THAT ISSUE MAY BECOME A "TIME BOMB" IN U.S.-JAPAN
RELATIONS, AND AWAITS POLITICAL SETTLEMENT THROUGH
FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN
TO SELECT ITS NEGOTIATING TEAM, WHICH WILL BE LED BY
A POLITICIAN. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY DIRECTOR
GENERALUNO PROBABLY CANNOT GO BECAUSE OF DIET BUSINESS
AND CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO FORMER CABINET MEMBERS
YASUHIRO NAKASONE (CHAIRMAN OF LDP'S OIL PROBLEM RESEARCH
COUNCIL) AND YOSHITAKE SASAKI (CHAIRMAN OF LDP'S
RESOURCES AND ENERGY RESEARCH COUNCIL). IN STILL ANOTHER
ARTICLE, NIHON KEIZAI SAYS THAT JAPANESE GOVT. PLANS TO
MAKE ALL-OUT EFFORT TO TRY TO PERSUADE U.S. SIDE TO
PERMIT START-UP OF REPROCESSING PLANT AS SCHEDULED, BUT
PROSPECT IS FOR ROUGH SAILING. JAPANESE WILL
TRY TO PERSUADE U.S. NOT TO COME OUT WITH RIGOROUS
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NUCLEAR-CONTROL POLICY ON APRIL 20. IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR JAPAN TO COMPROMISE BY MAKING REPROCESSING PLANT AN EXPERIMENTAL FACILITY UNDER IAEA AUSPICES.

7. DENKI SHIMBUN REPORTS IN FOUR SEPARATE ARTICLES THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL UNO HAS COMMENTED THAT THE NUCLEAR TALKS WENT AS ANTICIPATED AND THAT PREPARATIONS FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS MUST PROCEED AS FAST AS POSSIBLE; THAT KOSUKE YAMAMOTO, DIRECTOR OF NUCLEAR INDUSTRY DIVISION, AGENCY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, BELIEVES THAT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SETTLEMENT CAN BE REACHED BUT THAT EVENTS DO NOT WARRANT OPTIMISM; THAT UNO, IN RESPONDING TO A DIET COMMITTEE QUESTION, SAID THAT THE U.S. HAS NOT YET DISAPPROVED OPERATION OF JAPANESE REPROCESSING PLANT AND HE INTENDS TO PROCEED WITH A REPROCESSING PROGRAM WHILE OBSERVING THE U.S.-JAPAN BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT; AND THAT NUCLEAR INDUSTRY LEADERS WERE GENERALLY APPRECIATIVE OF POSITION TAKEN BY PRIME MINISTER.

8. NIKKAN KOGYO FOLLOWED SAME LINE AS DENKI SHIMBUN, AND INCLUDED STATEMENT OF PRAISE FOR FUKUDA FROM TOSHIO DOKO, PRESIDENT OF KEIDANREN.

9. JAPAN TIMES ANALYSIS OF QUESTION IS MOST NEGATIVE OF ALL IN CLAIMING THAT FUKUDA WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN HIS NUCLEAR MISSION BY FAILING "TO DISPEL THE U.S. SUSPICION THAT JAPAN MAY GO NUCLEAR," THEREBY ALLOWING THE U.S. TO CONTINUE ITS NUCLEAR MONOPOLY. IN ANOTHER ARTICLE, TIMES QUOTED FUMIN HATOYAMA EXTENSIVELY AS SAYING (A) HE EXPECTED A BREAKTHROUGH IN ENSUING NUCLEAR REPROCESSING NEGOTIATIONS; (B) THERE IS NO SECRET DEAL BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES; (C) TIGHT U.S. POLICY WOULD NOT CHANGE BEFORE APRIL 20; (D) PROBLEM WAS COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT IF JAPAN WERE GIVEN CONCESSIONS, THIS WOULD LEAD TO CLAIMS BY OTHER COUNTRIES. PAPER ALSO HAD STILL ANOTHER STORY

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ON CONCERN EXPRESSED BY BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON FUKUDA'S FAILURE TO OBTAIN REPROCESSING CONCESSION FROM USG, EVEN THOUGH THIS OUTCOME HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED.

10. COMMENT: MEDIA HAVE THUS FAR TREATED NUCLEAR ENERGY AS MOST SENSITIVE ISSUE ADDRESSED AT SUMMIT. IT IS

PREOCCUPYING PRESS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND
INDUSTRY, IF RESULTS OF DIRECT CONTACTS BY EMBOFFS IN ALL OF
THESE SEGMENTS ARE AN INDICATOR.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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